such as dorught and floods, inadequate rural infrastructure and deficiency in supply of quality inputs are some of the reasons for lower growth leading to rural distress in certains parts of the country.

(d) and (e) The State Governments have broadly reported crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurity as causes for commiting suicide by farmers. Based on the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers, the government has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007. Varrious recommendations made by the Commission for rejuvenation of agriculture and allied sectors, as accepted by the Government, have been incorporated in the National Policy for Rarmers. These include, *inter-alia,* asset reforms in respect of land water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner, agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers, and integrated nutrient and pest management system etc. In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with an outlay of 4882.48 crore during Eleventh Plan, to improve productivity and production of foodgrains in the country and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), with an outlay of Rs. 25000 crore during Eleventh Plan with an objective to in centiwise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes. Besides, a number of initiatives, plan schemes and programmes including the initiatives/ programmes announced in the Budget 2008-09 have been taken/initiated for development of agriculture sector.

Statement

Annexure

State/UT wise number of suicide by farmers during the year 2006 as per NCRB report

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2607
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	322
4.	Bihar	46
5.	Chhattisgarh	1483
6.	Goa	5
7.	Gujarat	487
8.	Haryana	190
9.	Himachal Pradesh	22
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	34
11.	Jharkhand	103

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	1720
13.	Kerala	1124
14.	Madhya pradesh	1375
15.	Maharashtra	4453
16.	Manipur	0
17.	Meghalaya	3
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Nagaland	2
20.	Orissa	283
21.	Punjab	85
22.	Rajasthan	395
23.	Sikkim	35
24.	Tamil Nadu	426
25.	Tripura	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	411
27.	Uttaranchal	51
28.	West Bengal	1189
	Total (States)	**16863**
29.	A&N Islands	**6**
30.	Chandigarh	**1**
31.	D&N Haveli	**12**
32.	Daman & Diu	**0**
33.	Delhi (UT)	**3**
34.	Lakshadweep	**0**
35.	Puducherry	175
	TOTAL (UTs):	**197**
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA) :	**17060**

SOURCE: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Loss of life, property and livestock due to rain and hailstorm t 815. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that crops of farmers in Uttar Pradesh and

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

several other States have, suffered a heavy loss due to fast blowing winds alongwith rain, hail storm and frost during the last month;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that above rain and hail storm have caused loss of life, property and livestock;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise; and

(e) assistance being provided to farmers by Government to compensate the above loss?

THE MINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFAGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILALBHURIA):

(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Procurement and consumption of **rice**

816. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2005-2006, rice consumption stood at 87.01 million tonnes against an output of 91.7 million tonnes and the demand for rice has been going up at an average of 1 million tonnes each year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite all measures, the Ministry's estimates of Kharif rice stood at only 80.15 million tonnes compared to last years' 80.11 million tonnes; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to procure more rice from domestic markets, so that it may be available in large quantities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) On the basis of monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61 st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India 2004-05", and the population projections given by the Office of the Registrar of India, the consumption of rice in the country during 2005-06 was estimated at 87.01 million tonnes which includes seed, feed and wastage against an output of 91.79 million tonnes. The household demand for rice has been going up by about 1.24 million tonnes each year.

(b) As per the 2nd Advance Estimates released on 07.02.2008, production of Kharif rice during 2007-08 is estimated at 81.52 million tonnes compared to last year's Kharif season production of 80.17 million tonnes.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to maximize procurement of rice in the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08:

(i) To encourage farmers to grow more paddy, the Minimum support Price (MSP) for paddy was fixed at Rs. 645 per quintal (Common Variety) and Rs. 675 per quintal (Grade "A" Variety) for KMS 2007-08 giving an increase of Rs. 65 per quintal over the MSP of KMS 2006-07.

(ii) A bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal over and above the MSP of paddy in KMS 2007-08 had been announced.

(iii) Commission to Societies and Self-Help Groups undertaking procurement of paddy